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HIDALGO, BARNEY
AMMUG/1

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(1)

On July 28, 1978 at 10:00 a.m. Charles Beck and Dan Hardway of the HSCA conducted a three hour interview ^{at CIA HQ's} w/
Barney Tidaldo. ~~The interview~~
Mr. Tidaldo was provided a copy of the CIA release letter at the outset of the interview. Upon reviewing the letter Mr. Tidaldo stated that whatever [REDACTED] ^{Admiral} [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] ^{Turner} may permit, the letter does not release Mr. Tidaldo from his ^{self-imposed} secrecy standard. Mr. Beck explained to Mr. Tidaldo that whatever he discussed during the interview would be treated as confidential. However, Mr. Tidaldo stated that he might not respond to ^{HSCA} questions.

Mr. Tidaldo stated that he has no present connection w/ the CIA. When queried whether he is presently retired, Mr. Tidaldo would not respond to the question. He ~~would~~ also not provide his current address when asked to do so by Mr. Beck.

7 working at headquarters
or ~~on~~ cuba-related matter

(2)

Mr. Hidalgo did state that at the time of JFK's assassination, he was a CIA Case office. When asked ~~what~~ identifies his specific responsibilities in this position ~~was~~, Mr.

Hidalgo responded that he had no specific responsibilities, rather he ~~had~~ ~~was~~ ~~been assigned to various~~ was assigned to various Agency components on a day to day basis and traveled at the discretion of his supervisor.

Mr. Hidalgo explained that he ^{had} worked ~~at some~~ specifically on Cuba-related operation.

Mr. Hidalgo further stated that during his CIA career he had ^{succesfully} developed expertise in a number of operational activities. When directly asked if the expertise included skill in interrogation and surreptitious entry, Mr. Hidalgo would not respond directly.

He explained that he would not answer a question if he believes that his response would be threatening to the national security. He further declined

7
see back

In this regard, Mr. Hidalgo informed the HSCA ~~interviewer~~
that he had ^{in detail} been involved
in the Bay of Pigs operation.

~~Both at Headquarters~~

~~and in the field, including~~
~~Mr. Hidalgo states that he had visited~~
~~New Orleans & Miami~~
his opinion. He indicated
that he was indirectly responsible
for Brigade 20506. In connection
with his work on Cuban
matters. However, these visits
had little to do w/ the Bay of
Pigs activities. Rather, they involved
the handling of a CIA agent who had been
in Cuban Intelligence Service (CIS)

The indicated that he was indirectly
responsible for Brigade 20506.

~~When asked this question~~ He stated
that the 20506 represented
the sixth person he had interro-
gated & cleared for operational
use in the Brigade. 20506 had
subsequently met an untimely
death and therefore his numerical
designation was adopted by the
Brigade. It was Mr. Hidalgo's
belief that Castro had effected a one
Hidalgo served as the CIA's
counterintelligence officer on the
operation.

penetration against the
Brigade but he could not say exactly
what the penetration agent ^{was known to him}.

that "Espionage is not a gentleman's game!"

Mr. Hedalgo was queried whether he was familiar w/ the CIA cryptonym AMMOS/1.

He said that the cryptonym was familiar to him. He further stated that he recalled AMMOS/1 defected from CUIS to the CIA in April 1964.

Mr. Hedalgo was shown DIR 16369, 23 April 64, a CIA cable describing AMMOS/1's ^{the code name} ~~concluded~~ defection in Canada, a brief ~~mentioning~~ ^{mentioning} of his knowledge ^{of} CUIS, Hedalgo reviewed the cable and was then asked to assess the significance ^{of} A/I's defection. Hedalgo refused to answer the question.*

Hedalgo did state that he was not sent to Canada to bring A/I back to the country. Rather Harold Swenson, c/SAS/CI? was

~~given~~ the responsibility. Hedalgo was asked to know where Swenson presently was. He said he but would not provide location ~~for~~

* Towards the end of the interview the question was again posed to Hedalgo who then responded that A/I (over)

defection
was of great significance
to us. However he ~~said~~
would not elaborate on his
statement when asked to do so.

~~Hedalgo~~ was next asked to describe his relationship to A/I. He responded that it would be best to ask Mr. Swenson that question. Hedalgo was also asked to describe the relationship of Daniel Funes and Joseph Piccolo (both CIA employees who handled A/I) to A/I. Once again, Hedalgo defered to Swenson for an answer to the question.

~~_____~~ Bed asked Hedalgo what specific information A/I provided the CIA or Lee Harvey Oswald. Hedalgo responded that he would rather not answer the question.

Hedalgo was then asked if he knew whether Swenson had tape recorded his meeting w/ A/I in Canada. Hedalgo said it's would have been standard operating procedure in a case of this kind. However,

(5)

He said he could not recall whether he had heard the tape recording of Swanson's Canada debriefing of A/I or had read the transcript of the debriefing.

Hedalgo was next queried as to his first knowledge of A/I's defection. He indicated that he first became aware of A/I's defection when he read the cable — describing A/I's defection that was disseminated to HQ 23 April 1964. Hedalgo stated that the first contact w/ A/I occurred after A/I's "trip" to Washington D.C. during the last week of April 1964.

Hedalgo said A/I was debriefed by the ~~CIA~~ during A/I's stay in Washington while he characterized a very long for "a matter of months — not too long", i.e. approximately 6 months.)

Hedalgo refused to describe the manner in which A/I was used by the CIA while

remained in Washington. Pedalgo was particularly desirous to discuss A/J's [REDACTED] operational use by the Agency. Pedalgo had stated in his notes that on 7 1/2/64 he had received a copy of a [REDACTED] communication from [REDACTED] which provided additional information related to A/J's defection & his knowledge of CUS. The cable identified certain DSIs from the stations at the Cuban Embassy, Consulate in NY City, [REDACTED]
 [REDACTED]

Pedalgo stated that he had read the cable when it was sent to HQs. When asked who the cable author was, Pedalgo declined to answer. He was asked to quote page 2, paragraph 9 of the above-referenced cable. [REDACTED] where the names of Alfredo Muralal & Manuel Vega are cited as being CUS staffers. Pedalgo said that he did not know the persons at the firm that entity had been posted at.

(?)

Cuban Embassy in Mexico ~~in~~

~~H~~ Hidalgo stated that he "just knew what the Agency knew at the time" ~~but~~ that he had no personal knowledge of either person.

Hidalgo did indicate, however, that he was then aware

at the time ^{of the} "roles various
agents played"
of Vegas & Morales' AG1 status.
He ~~now~~ probably knew what their specific duties were but he ~~can~~ not presently recall this information.

Reference was then made to P 3 paragraph 6 of the Ottawa cable, wherein it is stated that ~~it~~ he had ^{communicated} brought out document from Cuba upon his departure.

Hidalgo was asked if any other documents referred to concerned Lee Harvey Oswald or the JFK assassin. He responded that he did not see all of the document + that the ones which he did see did not refer to LHO or JFK assassin. But by their ~~subject~~ subject matter may have been questioned versus LHO or JFK assassin. However, on this point Hidalgo

at the
time
"roles
various
agents
played"

5

again deferred to Swanson
for a more detailed answer.

Mr. Hidalgo was next asked
to expand on 8 May memo,
~~when he advised me he did~~
~~not~~ ~~in~~ ~~the~~ ~~D~~ Drafting Report #65,
Subject: which details D61'

responsibility for issuance
of visa to persons seeking
~~who~~ entry into Cuba. Hidalgo
confirmed that Swanson
had written the memo & that
the memo was an accurate
summary of available information.
Hidalgo stated, in reference to
~~the~~ D61 visa issuance procedure,
that, a traveler to Cuba,
would not necessarily have
met a D61 officer ~~but~~ but
that the D61 office would have
been aware of the traveler's
presence. A D61 officer would
have reviewed all ~~traveler's~~
visa applications.

Hidalgo does not if any
specification of work was
used in the ~~visa~~ ~~application~~
~~for~~ visa application
to indicate that there were
Cuban intelligence agents

(9)

~~that~~ When asked by A/J had reported who [redacted] DS/ office

LHO dealt w/in NY. Tedaldo refused to answer.

Tedaldo also refused to answer whether he had been stationed in NY. He did state that he had been in Mexico prior to 1965, [redacted] and probably 1963 but not Sept 1 Oct 9 that year.

At this point in the interview was not acquainted w/ either David Phillips or [redacted] [redacted] Scott in NY. He did state that he was acquainted w/ Maurice Bishop but not as well as with Scott Phillips. Tedaldo said w/ Bishop was at CIA Head-quarters. He did not know Bishop's agency responsibilities. Rather, he knew Bishop as just as someone who worked at Headquarters.

Tedaldo also indicated that he knew E. Howard Hunt in much the same manner as he

had been
working
with
Bishop.

Hedalgo appears that he had contact w/ Cuban in Mexico but not to the knowledge. When asked if the meant that he was running revolution agents into the Cuban Embassy, Hedalgo refused to answer.

Hedalgo then states that while in Mexico he had been in contact w/ the Mexican Federal police on the occasion

knew Besty i.e. ~~is~~ not personal.
 However, when queried ^{in re Hardway} concerning Hunt, Hidalgo countered by asking why Mr. Hardway had brought up the subject of Hunt. He further explained that HSCA was "spinning its wheel" by investigating Hunt.

Inset
Sidle

~~P. J. Hidalgo~~ Questioned
 First on his relationship w/ A/I, Hidalgo said that his last contact w/ A/I was in 1964.

Mr. Hardway queried Mr. Hidalgo at the point ~~as to~~ ~~as to~~ as to his knowledge of the following person:

1) — ~~██████████~~: Hidalgo said he knew him but would not discuss Mr. ~~██████████~~

2) Silverman: Hidalgo stated that he "some do's (knows) but I sure don't want to discuss it." He did state that he had had indirect contact w/ Mr. Silverman but doesn't recall when the contact took place. He did

state that he has received information regarding S. Duran from a CIA agent in Mex. Hedges also states that he would not know whether Duran had been employed by either the CIA or the Mexican government.

This information was put into report form

The agent, [] was in direct contact w/ the Mex Com-
munist Party. Hedges said he could not now recall his

name. [] He does say
he was a close associate
of Duran's. []
He did not believe Duran
had ever worked
for the CIA.
[]

that the agent CIA
Case officer spoke w/a
man and had a hairy

When asked if the person
was Robert Shaw Hedges
replied it might have been him.

3) William Hawes: Hedalgo

was a acquaintance w/
Hawes - Hedalgo stated he
~~had never heard of~~

4) Frank Sturges: He
knew of him but had
no personal contact w/
him

5) Tony Varona: He knew
Varona as the result
of operational contact

Hedalgo was next asked to
expansive a debriefing report
9 A/I 30 April 64. This
report identifies Alfredo
Muñoz, Manuel Vega,
Ricardo Concepcion and D6/
Officer at the Cuban End/Co.
in NY City. Hedalgo reiterated
that he had no knowledge
of these persons. He did
also state he had previously
seen the debriefing report
~~which was~~ a Webster
translation from the Spanish,
which he had done himself.

When asked about the
polygraph test administered

(R)

To A/I on 11 May 1964, Hidalgo stated that he was not present.

He did, however, read the results of the polygraph but does not recall if LHO was dismissed but ~~says~~ believes it would have been because it was a long session.

He believes that John White, on a need to know basis would have been given access to the polygraph results. Hidalgo was again asked what information A/I provided about L HO. Hidalgo again deferred to Swanson for the information.

In an effort to refresh his recollection

Hidalgo was not shown a 5 May 64 blend memorandum by Harold Swanson reciting A/I's knowledge regarding L HO & JFK assassination. This ~~is~~ ~~is~~ ~~not~~ ~~the~~ ~~memorandum~~ Hidalgo states that he may have seen the memo previously. He did not know who wrote it but was cognizant of its accuracy. He doesn't recall reading

Chuck Berk
ITS CA
27 July 64

Ammy Materials for Hidalgo Interview

- VII ① DIR 16369, 23 April 64 A
- ✓ ② OTTA IN 68894, 24 April 64 B
- ③ Debriefing of Ammy/1, 30 April 64 C
Subj: Docs brought out by A/1
- ④ OCOA 7763, 1 May 64 D
- ⑤ 17 July 64, Contact Report ✓ E
From: J. Piccolo
- ⑥ 27 Nov 64 Hidalgo memo WH/SA 64-751 ↙
- VIII ⑦ E60W-4675, 15 June 66 M
⑧ 9 April 71, Contact Report, ^{cover memo} UFAA-2925 F
From: Eustace D. Kloock
- Box 19¹⁵
Folder "Raw" ⑨
"Raw"
"Raw"
- " ⑩ 21 August 64 ✓ G
Info from A/1 on Agents
- " ⑪ 5 May 64 - debriefing of A/1 N
Blind memo
- ⑫ 11 May 64, FOIA 687-295, XAAZ-272B
- Culderon ✓ ⑬ 28 Jun 63 Report #EE390 H
- ✓ ⑭ 11 March 65, LX-2467 ✓ J
- ⑮ 26 April 65, CSC1-316/01783-65 ✓ I
- ⑯ 1 Sept 63, HMMW 11935 ✓ K

.. - Bustos

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